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Human rights questions: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Protection of migrants

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum

1. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 54/166, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights transmitted, on 29 May 2000, a note verbale to Governments on behalf of the Secretary-General, drawing their attention, in particular, to paragraphs 1, 3, 4, 6 and 7 of the resolution. The Secretary-General requested Governments to provide him with any information they wished to submit pertaining to the implementation of the resolution.

2. On 21 July 2000, the Government of Mexico transmitted the following reply to the note verbale:

(a) The Government of Mexico has taken action in three main areas. The first relates to its activities to ensure the effective protection of the human rights of all migrants. In that context, the ratification in March 2000 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families is of particular importance. In addition, since 1995 the National Institute of Migration has been implementing the National Migrant Protection Programme, with the participation of nine migrant protection groups, and respect for migrants' human rights is monitored. As for the protection of child migrants, we would emphasize the attention paid to repatriated children under the National Programme of Action for Children. In that context, the Governments of Mexico and the United States of America signed the Agreement on Procedures for the Safe and Orderly Repatriation of Mexican Nationals, which entered into force in 1998.

(b) With regard to cooperation by Governments with the Commission on Human Rights Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants, which the second part of our reply addresses, the Government of Mexico submitted a resolution, which was adopted without a vote at the latest session of the Commission, expressing the Commission's support for the work of the Special

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Rapporteur. In that context, the Government of Mexico has invited the Special Rapporteur to visit the country.

(c) The third area of activities relates to the review of immigration policies and the enactment of legislation to combat international trafficking of migrants, when their lives, especially those of women and children, are at risk. At the international level, the Government of Mexico would draw attention to its active participation, within the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in the preparation of the draft protocol on the smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea. The Government has given its support to the preparation of an instrument to promote international cooperation to combat the trafficking and smuggling of immigrants. At the national level, the courts have acted to prosecute the perpetrators of such trafficking and action has been taken to protect the victims and strengthen the relevant domestic legislation.